

**The moſte true reporte of  
Iames Fitz Morrice death, and o-  
ther ſthe like offenders: with a brief  
diſcourſe of Rebellion, dedicated to the riſht  
worſhipfull my louyng freende M. Drene  
Drewrie, brother to the honourable ſir  
Wilyam Drewrie, lord Justice  
of Irelande. Written by  
Thomas Church-  
yard Gent.**



**Imprinted at London by Edward  
White, dwelling at the little  
Northdore of S. Paules  
churche, at the ſigne  
of the Gunne.**





If I had been forgetfull of a willyng promes made for a gifte, I thoughte too presente you withall (notwithstanding tyme lapping vpp many matters preuented me) yet your courtesies towardes my self, as generally to the worlde where you like, commaunded me to remember what I had spoken, in effect not perfourmed. And further, your iuste and honest life (wheron good credite & worship hath waited) a double occasion gaue me to present you some matter worthe to bee seen of many, because your eyes and iudgement not alone, but with noble companie (your honorable brother sir *Willyam Drurie* the cheef) haue pitied the miserie of me  
A.ii. that.

¶ lately by Defarte are in disgrace,  
and namely the rebellion of those  
that thought them selues, bothe  
wise and honourable. So for a  
welcome home from soile, where  
sedition hath been to often seen, I  
committe this my simple gifte to  
your protection and well likyng,  
and what is spok entherin, God &  
good men maie defende, though it  
wanted a sufficient patron to ma=  
intaine and manifest a troth, thus  
reioysyng in the continuance of  
your accustomed vertues, I trou=  
ble you no further, but desire you  
to read that followeth, and fauor  
and countenaunce the same, as  
your byright iudgement  
shall leade you.

Yours in that he maie,  
at commaundemente  
*Thomas Churchyard.*



Among all the cruell and  
combrous chaunces of  
this worlde wherein bu-  
sic beddes, and wicked  
wittes are occupied (to  
the bodie and soules de-  
structiō) is no onething  
so perillous, as the pestilent plague and smo-  
therpng smoke that ciuill dissentiō bypyngeth.  
Whiche is bred in the bowells of rebellion,  
nourled vp in vile and naughtie Nature, and  
brought to a full perfection, by the pride or  
conceite of hatefull persones, and vnnaturall  
practises. And surely no matter more to bee  
lamented, then to see one member corrupte  
an other, and the foote or inferiour partes  
(whose force is small, and feeblenesse greate)  
strine with the hedde, or deuie to dooe their  
duetie, and beare that thei are able. For in a  
maner it is a monstrous vewe to beholde,  
some branches of a tree yelde but bitter ber-  
ries, and all the reste of the bowes to beare  
moste sweete and acceptable fruite. And a  
more odious sight it is to see a ciuill manne,  
become a sauage beast, vertue and valiaun-  
tie, conuerted to villanous vice and treche-  
rie: The subuerston of kyngdomes, and cor-

rupter of all Common weales, whiche ruste  
and canker once takyng roote, destroyes not  
onely pure and fine mettall, but maintaineth  
grosse and foule infection, the mother of mis-  
cheef and disorder, whereby cleane life and  
good maners is forgotten, and leaude beha-  
uiour is moſte in mynde, and embraced.

In the daies of oure Forefathers many  
hundred yeres agoe menne were so noblie  
bent and disposed (and honoured their Coun-  
trei so dearely) that no hazarde nor attempte  
was refused, that might aduaunce the pub-  
like state, or enlarge the boundes and liber-  
ties of the same. And some one to ridde their  
countrey of Plague, or noysome afflictions,  
haue offered their liues, and sought death as  
willingly as life and worldely felicitie, is e-  
mong the greatest number desired, the cou-  
rage of *Marcus Curius*, and many others  
of manly minde beares witnesse to that mat-  
ter. Yea, some to ridde good and peaceable  
people, that wissheth quietnesse, from wicked  
warre (and the pride of a tyrant) haue aduen-  
tured to worke wonders: and bying to passe  
thynge, beyonde the common compasse of  
mannes pollicie. Lette the boldnesse of *Mu-  
sius Scaevola* stande for an argumente suffici-  
ent

ent in the pꝛooꝛe of this cause. And so sonde-  
rie, yea, a multitude of renowned personā-  
ges (their order of life and death reuiued)  
byꝛnges recoꝛde enough of their noble dee-  
des, and vertuous dispositions. But as those  
worthies did weare awaie, and the season be-  
came old (thꝛough continuance of tyme) so  
newe fashions and maners wared ripe in a  
little while after, and were so well liked foꝛ  
their sodaine chaunge, and alteration of spi-  
rite, that the olde fidelitie and value of mens  
estimation, beeyng waied in the ballaunce of  
newe found fancies, beganne to lose weight,  
and wanted many graines of goodnesse (that  
our Elders honoured) it hath suttellie been  
solde, and finely laied by, yet vsed ouer often  
and tasted to muche, and yet the custome is  
not so good, that it maie bꝛeede a Lawe in  
mannes Nature, noꝛ make men leaue the v-  
sage of olde vertue, foꝛ the cunniꝛg trade of  
finenesse newe vice, that euery daie changeth  
condition, and lookes neither to G<sup>OD</sup>, the  
worlde, noꝛ well doynge, but passeth to sonde-  
rie pꝛactises in some kinde of sorte, againste  
heauen and yearth, and so is carred cleane  
from all hope of repentaunce, rounnyng head-  
long into a heape of hazardes.

A.iiij.

The

The newe treasons, dangerous deuises,  
beuelishe attemptes, and rebellious rages of  
diuers wretched people (that for the reuenge  
of a little wrong, settes abroche many broi-  
les) argues a marueilous decaye in the myn-  
des of men, that hath been giuen to doe good,  
and expresseth plainely that our auncestours  
noblenesse is out of memorie, and the worlde  
is wonderfully enclined to followe badde cu-  
stomes, and curious knackes of crueltie,  
murtherpng freendes that neuer offended,  
and fauourpng foes that daiely seekes mis-  
cheef. The bloode of that honeste gentleman  
*Harry Danells*, cries out vppon those filthie  
practises, and the murders without mercie  
committed of late, deeth manifestly declare,  
the villanous exchaunge of this inconstaunte  
worlde, whiche nouseleth bloodie hartes in  
tyrannic, and bringes forth the cursted fruit  
of *Caine*, that God did not leaue unpunished.

You maie read of some noble warriours,  
that after thei were banished their countrey,  
through the furie of the people, and mutabi-  
litie of Fortune: yet thei behaued them selues  
so worthely, when thei looked backwarde to  
the bodie and bowelles of the native soile thei  
were bozne in, thei refrained their handes frō  
doynge

Dooyng violence, and kepte their hartes and  
their heddes from woorkyng of iniuries, es-  
pecially towarde their Prince and Coun-  
trei, whiche modeste and gentillnesse (when  
it was well considered of) wan them a grea-  
ter credite then thei had before, and brought  
them home againe, and in a good likyng of  
the Commons ever after. But as you maye  
read in many good aucthours, the goodnesse  
of suche menne that honoured their countrey:  
So maie you see the lightnesse of some peo-  
ple, ledde so farre beyonde the boundes of o-  
bedience, and loue of their Prince, that thei  
leauie no shamelesse matter vnsought, nor no  
mischeef vnnimistered, where thei ought to  
bee profitable members of the state, and pre-  
seruatours of the common weale.

It is assuredly more the miraculous (and  
as wee might properly saie, a thing past all  
reason) to see a manne forsake his Countrie,  
and cutte hymself in peeces, by abandonyng  
the same, and then to runne a gaddying after  
euery shadowe, and giue hym self ouer to the  
leadying and gouernement of a straunger,  
who can not inwardlie esteeme hym, because  
he hath betrayed the bodie whereof he was a  
member, and deceiued his owne self by sor-  
nyng

ping dissention, where duetie commaundeth  
concorde, and he of duetie ought to bee a sub-  
iecte, a matter that if menne would wisely  
waye (and thoroughly looke into) might kepe  
them from witlesse wanderping abroad, and  
preserue them at home in moze quietnesse of  
mynde.

Well, now beholde what brusteth out of  
rebellion, and chaunge of good conditions,  
and regarde how God prepareth instrumen-  
tes, to put them downe that Sathan hath ad-  
uaunced, and you shall finde that the almightie  
fighteth the battaile, when the pollicie and  
power of man faileth, or wareth feble. You  
maie remember, that markes this worlde,  
how *Shaen Oneall* was strong in the feelde,  
and yet wanted force and cunning, to keepe  
his hedde on his shoulders. And an other cal-  
led *Rorioege* who delighted in rebellion,  
was lefte headlesse ere he was ware, and all  
by the prouidence and iuste Iudgemente of  
the Almightye, who holdes the bridle in his  
owne hande, and tourneth bothe horse and  
man, the verie same waie he hath appointed  
for their destruction. And where one rebell  
by sufferaunce escapeth the scourge, a thou-  
sande lighteth in the lashe, and feles the whip  
of

of Gods wrathe and displeasure.

And maie not this laste example bee rehearsed, for a testimonie of Gods vengeance when he listeth to strike: yee vndoubtedlie, it maie bee recited, because *Fitz Morrice* was thought wise, valiaunt, strong, learned, experimented in Marshall affaires, and a greate trauailer to sturre by troubles, which fell vpon his owne hedde, when neither wisdom could preuent it, nor his rebellious power could withstande Gods doying and ordinance, and who so deeply noteth the manner of his death (and dangerous deastenie that drew hym to his ende) shall see the infinite Maiestie of God shine, in the purpose and determinations of men, especially when thei goe about good thynges, whereby God is knowen and glorified, and the worlde in those purposes is dispatched of troublesome rebelles.

I praye you was not this a deuine worke, when men of his owne nation and acquaintance, were moued in courage, either to requere *Fitz Morrice*, or suffer death in the attempt. And after this resolution, wente so manfully aboute their businesse, that all was brought to suche passe (though with losse of  
life

life to the executioners therof) as better could  
not be deuised, nor be brought to effecte. The  
acte was noble: the hazard greater: The man-  
hoode not little. And the matter shall remain  
registerred in the booke of Fame, whyles any  
Boyrowe, Boyrke, or Toun, can sett for the  
good seruice, or shewe any notable exploit.

Now the maner of his death is looked for,  
but first the lādyng of hym self and his whole  
companie should be spoken of, whiche was so  
simple and so farre paste his hope, as neither  
it dooeth merite remembraunce, nor carries  
any pecc of credite with it, recite it who plea-  
seth. For albeit he made muche adoe, to bring  
to passe muche matter, little was performed  
to the purpose, in the answerpng of his owne  
expectation, for in deede diuerse thynges  
whet contrary to that he desired: And albeit  
some strength by fortification he sought, yet  
weakely and barely he beganne, and foolishly  
ended his life. Though animated with  
woyle in condition then hym self, he tooke in  
hande a greate aduventure, and dallied a while  
on the hazarde of happe, and the aduantage  
of tyme: the one doubtfull, and the other sub-  
iecte to chaunce, yet neither Fortunes banis-  
gerous dealing, nor tymes mutabilitie could  
daunte his outragious desire, nor at any sea:

son make hym shunne the daunger he was  
in. But blisping his braines and senses, about  
needlesse sleighes, and subtile seditions, he  
fell in the handes of his enemies, who char-  
ged vppon hym moste valliauntly, and with  
muche adoe ouercame him (because he stout-  
ly made defence) and stroke of his hedde, whē  
least he looked for suche a destenie, and shorte  
dispatch of this world. Some reportes there  
are bruted abroad (to affirme it for trothe I  
cannot) that one *Bercke* a gentilman for a  
pardon graunted by the *Lorde Justice*, for  
the losse of a hande made promesse with the  
same pardoned hande, to purchase the *Prin-*  
*ces* fauour; and so to kil *Fitz Morrice*. But  
how soeuer the matter went, or the brethren  
called *Berckes* agreed in that point. For cer-  
taine *Fitz Morrice* losse his life, beyng hurt  
by the *Berckes*, and shotte into the hedde by  
a good and perite *Hargabozier*, and had his  
hedde striken of, although those that came a-  
gainst him, were muche lesse in nomber then  
hym self: A thyng to bee noted, and a matter  
wherein often, right and trothe euer hath shi-  
ned, and gotten greate glorie, whiche is a  
signe that victorie restes not in a multitude,  
but dependeth rather in Justice, and equitie  
of

of the quarrell and cause.

Thus the worlde maie beholde the wonders that God worketh: Good people maie beware; how thei offende the prince, and their countrey. And rebelles are curbed, and made holde in heddes by this open rebuke. And to conclude, the opinion of thousandes is suche, that a rebell liues without loue, wāders without witte, feightes in feare, dyes without honour, and lies without graue, as a prey to the wilde wolffe, and foode to the carren Crow, left as a spectacle for many eyes to loke into, and shall reste as a perpetuall wonder to the wise, and matter of reproche for euery tonge to talke vppon. Now if better occasion had procured me to put penne to paper, you had not receiued this simple discourse at my hādes. Thus fare well good Reader, till my booke long promised bee printed, that presently is commyng out, and hath changed the name of Chippes, and is called Churchyardes Choice.



